

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated July 9, 2004, claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 26 are amended. Claims 1-26 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merrill et al. (USPN 6,369,821) in view of Sutton et al. (USPN ,539,354).

To expedite prosecution, independent claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 26 are amended to recite features not disclosed or suggested by Merrill et al. and Sutton et al., considered alone or in combination.

Thus, amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

the first message inputted from the user is a voice message of the user;
the second message generated in the server is a message that is established as the conversation in response to the first message inputted from the user; and
the motion control data are data used for causing the facial image data to move in synchronization with a timing when a voice is outputted at the time of pronunciation of the message.

Independent 5, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 15 are similarly amended.

Amended independent claim 17 recites, *inter alia*:

the motion control data are data used for causing facial image data to move in synchronization with a timing when a voice is outputted at the time of pronunciation of a message using the translated other natural language, and

said each of the terminal devices further includes a portion for a user to designate the natural language of the transmitted and received voice and the translated other natural language.

Independent 19, 20, 21 and 25 are similarly amended.

Amended independent claim 26 recites:

designating at a terminal device both a natural language and another natural language;
receiving a voice signal of a sentence comprised in a the natural language from a the terminal device;
translating the sentence of the received voice signal into a sentence comprising ~~another~~ the other natural language;
generating a voice signal corresponding to the translated sentence; and
transmitting the generated voice signal to another terminal device.

Amended independent claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 26 are patentable over Merrill et al. and Sutton et al. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1-26, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

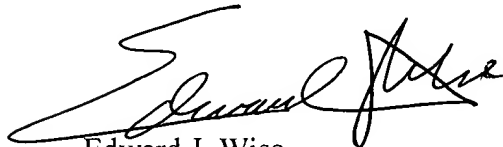
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Wise', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward J. Wise
Registration No. 34,523

600 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3096
(202) 756-8000 EJW/dmd
DATE: October 12, 2004
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087